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HONGKONG TELEGRAPH
 For and on behalf of
SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST, LTD.
Y. H. and
 Printed and Published

The Hongkong Telegraph

TODAY'S WEATHER: Moderate East winds; fine and hazy.
 Noon Observations: Barometric pressure 1019.1 mbs., 30.00 in.
 Temperature 72.1 deg. F. Dew point 55 deg. F. Relative humidity 55.
 Wind direction East. Wind force 1 knot.
 High water: 6 ft. 5 in. at 5.46 p.m. Low water: 1 ft. 7 in. at 1.30 a.m. (Tuesday).

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VOL. IV NO. 19

MONDAY, JANUARY 24, 1949.

Price 20 Cents

Fog, Freezes Air Traffic

Shanghai, Jan. 24.—A heavy fog that cut visibility to as low as 50 feet early this morning continued to freeze all air traffic in the Shanghai area.

The fog moved shortly after noon yesterday and air flights into and out of Shanghai have been disrupted since. The fog became so thick during this morning that motor cars drove in Shanghai streets with lights on and horns sounding even more constantly than usual to avoid accidents.—United Press.

New Aids For Catching Criminals

LONDON CAMPAIGN

London, Jan. 23.—Scotland Yard, London's police headquarters, is fitting all its motor-cycles as well as its cars with two-way radios to help its famous "flying squads" in their campaign against modern criminals.

At the same time they want to recruit another 5,000 energetic young men in the city's police ranks. With nearly 1,000 cars and motor-cycles now in operation, the London police increased their mechanization by 30 percent in 1948, and plans call for a further acceleration in communications to keep pace with postwar methods.

To match this, the police chiefs seek to raise the present manpower from about 15,500 to a minimum required force of some 20,000, which was the establishment before the war.

Despite all their handicaps, the London police have so far managed to keep pace with the city's criminals.

LESS SERIOUS CRIME

Although a wave of violent assaults and robberies has recently caught the public imagination and brought some urgent newspaper demands for better deployment of forces available, figures show that the number of serious crimes in London in 1948 were slightly less than in 1947, while the number of arrests were considerably more.

Scotland Yard are now "getting their man" more often, because they are making more use of their radio-equipped "flying squad" cars and because since the war a younger and energetic style of man has been recruited.

The London Police, with 4,000 postwar recruits, now have an average age lower than ever before in its history.

Continued on Page 5

REDS DRIVE TOWARD NANKING AND IGNORE PEACE OVERTURES

Expected To Reach The Yangtse Any Moment

Nanking, Jan. 24.—Strong Chinese Communist columns thrust suddenly southward on Sunday in an unopposed drive for the Yangtze River facing Nanking. The Nationalists hastily abandoned Chuhsien, defence headquarters 30 miles from this uneasy capital.

The victorious and confident Reds either intend to seize the capital, scornful of a negotiated settlement, or are putting on pressure in anticipation of stopping the civil war at their own terms. It is too early to tell which.

The Communist radio broadcast a long statement by non-Communist leader Marshal Li Chi-shen, endorsing the Communist demands for a Government surrender and calling for a coalition "united under the leadership of the Communist Party." This manifesto derided "the hypocritical peace offensive" of the present Government and urged creation of a Chinese regime emulating "our friend and neighbour, the Soviet Union."

Despite these staggering military and political developments, Nanking leaders persisted in predicting the Communists would accept their request for negotiation.

One unconfirmed pro-Government report said that, even while the Communists were hurling bombast at the Government, they had privately named Peiping as the site of a peace conference and had designated Chou En-lai, No. 2 Communist, as chief negotiator.

As the Communists marched down within 50 miles of Nanking, it was evident there was little, if any, fighting.

The Government's second rate defence forces withdrew rapidly before contacts were established. Numbers of Government troops from north of the river appeared in Nanking.

Strategy of the tettering Government appeared to be to withdraw everything to the South bank except a few small "holding" forces.

It was generally believed that regardless of the status of peace talks, the Government would collapse as soon as the Reds reached the Yangtze's north bank.

In any case, neutral military observers forecast that the Communists could cross the broad river, even against opposition, within one week to one month.

There was a distinct lull in the Government's peace efforts yesterday as Shao Li-tze, chairman of the Government's would-be peace delegation, went to Shanghai.

Shao, former Ambassador to Moscow, sought to consult leaders of the Democratic League, which the Government long ago outlawed for seeking peace, and also was reported attempting to get the aid of Mme. Sun Yat-sen.

CHIANG FETED

Mme. Sun, sister-in-law of the departed Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek, has tremendous prestige as the widow of Sun Yat-sen, revered "father" of the Republic. She long has refused to participate in politics.

Chiang, who flew away from Nanking on Friday, was reported to be the guest of honour at a lantern parade in his native village of Chikow.

Advisers of acting president Li Tsung-jen, whom Chiang left to do the best he could to end the three year civil war, listened in vain for some direct Communist radio reply to their urgent peace pleas.

All they were known to have heard was Communist military bulletins and the belittling statement of Marshal Li Chi-shen and 54 other anti-government non-Communists reiterating "there is no possibility for compromise or conciliation."

This group, whose statement may be the key clue to the future, was believed to be meeting at Shihkiachwang, 172 miles southwest of Peiping. Its members had filtered into Communist territory individually over the past three weeks, mostly from their Hongkong exile.

The group included Shen Chun-ju, Ma Hsu-lun, Kuo Mo-jo, Tan Ping-shan, Peng Tze-min, Chang Po-chun, Li Hsi-chiu, Tso Ting-kai, Chou Chien-jen, Fu Ting-ki, Chang Nai-chi, Li Teh-chung, Hu Yu-chih, Sha Chien-li, Mao Tun, Chu Hsueh-fan, Chen Chi-yu, Huang Chien-sheng, Chu Yun-shan, Teng Chuming, Chien Po-tsai, Wang Shao-ao, Wu Han, Hsu Kuang-ping, Chu Tuan, Chiu Che, Han Chao-ning, Feng Yu-gang, Hsu Pao-chu, Tien Han, Liang Shen, Hou Wai-lu, Shen Tze-chu, Huan Hsiang, Yang Kang-tsao, Meng Chun, Liu Ching-yang, Chang Man-yun, Shih Tsung-lung, Sun Chi-meng, Yen Hsin-min, Li Min-shin, Mei Kung-pin, Shen Chih-yuan, Chou King, An O, Wu Mao-sun, Ho Chu, Lin Yi-yung, Lai Ya-li, Yuan Chen, Shen Chiang, and Wang Yun-ju.—Associated Press.

REDS' ADVANCE

Nanking, January 23.—The Communist troops today advanced almost to the Yangtze River and it appeared that the Reds soon might exert pressure on the Nationalist government to accept their total surrender demands at gunpoint.

Nationalist military quarters admitted that the Communists might reach the north bank of the Yangtze at any moment and begin to launch an assault on the capital city.

Informed sources said that four Red columns racing southward had passed Lihou, only 15 miles north of Nanking, and Chuhsien, 30 miles to the northwest.

Acting President Li Tsung-jen has instituted a series of sweeping social, economic and political reforms, hoping to make peace negotiations easier and to soften the Communist surrender terms.

Meanwhile, reports from Ningpo, 200 miles south of Shanghai, said that President Chiang Kai-shek was spending a peaceful Sunday with his relatives in his ancestral home at Chikow and might remain there until the Chinese New Year on January 25.

Standstill as the government awaited a reply from the Communists who are in a position to dictate when and where the peace talks will be held.—United Press.

NEW CONCENTRATIONS

Hankow, Jan. 24.—Persistent but unofficial reports today recorded increasing concentrations of Communist troops at several points in

Hankow more than 200 miles north of Nanking.

The troops were said to belong to Generals Liu Po-cheng and Chen Kang and were presumed to be preparing for an advance down the Peiping-Hankow railway towards the Wuhan cities.

One force, of possibly 60,000 men and including the 3rd, 4th, 9th and 11th Combined Divisions, was stated to be gathering at Lohu (Yenchow) about 30 miles north of Chumai.

Both towns, on the railway, Chumai being about 200 miles north of Hankow and the furthest point on the line still in Nationalist hands.

Another force of somewhat smaller numbers was reported to be concentrating at Lushan, about 80 miles northwest of Lohu. Elements of these forces were said to have advanced as far as the outskirts of Suiping, a railway town about 10 miles north of Chumai.

A third force of about 2,000 men was reported at Sinsai, 60 miles northeast of the Nationalist-held town of Sinyang.

Several reports also claimed Communist irregulars have defeated the Nationalist Division which had been garrisoning the Upper Yangtze town of Kienli, about 80 miles southwest of Hankow, but official confirmation was lacking.

Irregulars have long been active in this region and unless further action occurs, observers are not prepared at present to regard the Communist success, if substantiated, as posing a further threat to Wuhan.—Reuter-AAP.

COMMUNISTS' ASSURANCES

Peiping, Jan. 23.—The Chinese Communists today splashed great coloured posters across Peiping's ancient walls assuring the nervous population that the Red occupation would be "peaceful." It is Peiping's eighth occupation in 500 years.

Vivid panels and posters depicted Communist soldiers obeying the eight disciplinary laws set out for them. Pamphlets were issued to residents, setting out severe penalties for sabotage or acts obstructing peaceful occupation.

Foreigners were warned specifically against harbouring war criminals, counter-revolutionary elements and other criminals. However, the Communists said they would protect foreign life and property.

The eight points set out for the Communist soldiers were:

1. Be courteous in attitude and speech.
2. Be fair in buying things.
3. Be sure to return borrowed articles.
4. Do not to compensate for things smashed.
5. Never scold or hit anyone.
6. Never destroy crops.
7. Never tease women or girls.
8. Never maltreat a prisoner of war.

PROTECTION GUARANTEED

The pamphlets issued to residents were signed by Lin Piao, leading Communist field commander in the Peiping-Tientsin area and counter-signed by his Political Commissar, Lo Jung-wan.

Continued on Page 5

SPARROW AT HOME



After three years in the home of Albert LeFebvre, in Los Angeles, Oscarinette, a sparrow, feels perfectly safe perched on its master's pipe.

RHODES CONFERENCE MAY BREAK DOWN

EARLY OPTIMISM GIVING WAY TO SUSPICION

Rhodes, Jan. 23.—The Arab-Jewish armistice negotiations here may break down completely if the present deadlock over troop withdrawal in Palestine continues much longer, observers believe.

Intensive back stage discussions, guided by Dr. Ralph Bunche, the acting United Nations Mediator, have failed to shake either side from its original stand. Dr. Bunche is calling another series of meetings in a supreme effort to break the deadlock.

Clashes Mark First Israeli Election

Tel-Aviv, Jan. 23.—Several minor clashes were reported and the police alerted in the cities of Tel-Aviv and Jaffa today as the new state of Israel prepared to hold its first general election on Tuesday.

None of the incidents was considered serious, but the relatively peaceful campaign is reaching a nervous, uneasy climax. Over 300,000 Jews and 30,000 Arabs will go to the polls on Tuesday to elect the first Jewish Assembly in 2,000 years.

Observers expected pro-Western candidates to win the majority of the 120 seats at stake. The Communists could count on 20 percent of the vote, according to observers.

As it prepared to ballot, Israel was on the brink of a really critical week. Peace and border negotiations with Egypt are taking place on the Mediterranean island of Rhodes. Britain is expected to grant de facto recognition to the new state this week and France, Australia and New Zealand are expected to follow suit. These moves, coupled with de jure recognition by the United States, would probably shift a number of votes to pro-Western candidates like members of Premier David Ben-Gurion's and Foreign Minister Moshe Shertok's Mapai or Labour Party.

Clashes were reported in Jaffa between labourites and followers of Menachem Beigrin, former head of the underground Irgun Zvai Leumi and now leader of the Freedom Movement which advocates Jewish control of all Palestine and Transjordan.—United Press.

'UN COMMISSION

The vanguard of the United Nations Conciliation Commission's Secretariat, led by Dr. Pablo Azcarate, arrived in Jerusalem today as machine-gun and rifle fire broke the peace of the city somewhere south of the Old City walls.

Continued on Page 5

Held Two Months In Dutch Gaol

Singapore, Jan. 23.—A young Canadian yachtsman, Phillip Stacey, 26, of Regina, Saskatchewan, said today that he and two Americans were held incommunicado in a Dutch gaol in Batavia for two months without any charge over having been brought against them.

Stacey told the United Press that he and Robert Smith, 25, of Portland, Oregon, and Foster Pince Jr., 22, of Shohomish, Washington, were attempting to sail from Singapore to Manila on the first stage of a trip to Honolulu when they were stopped by a Dutch patrol boat 20 miles off the coast of Dutch West Borneo, taken to Banjermpas in Borneo and interned a fortnight, and then taken to Batavia where they were locked up, he declared, in a "concentration camp" where "we practically starved."

Stacey said the Dutch officials refused all requests to explain charges or to contact American and British officials.

CAMP DIET

"During the entire two months we were not given a single cigarette. We were given nothing for breakfast; only a bowl of rice with gravy and tea without sugar or cream for lunch. Dinner was four ounces of bread and a spoonful of jam, which we were also expected to make do for breakfast. Sundays we sometimes had bananas. We had money which the Dutch had confiscated, but they refused to let us buy supplementary food with it. A white man would eventually starve on such a diet."

Stacey said the three yachtsmen, in their sloop "Lucky Boot"—in which Smith and Pince had sailed to Manila from Honolulu just after the war—were only 60 miles off Singapore on the first leg of their cruise when the Dutch arrested them, took them to Tanjung Pinnang and held them for a week.

"They apparently thought we were trying to aid the escape of three Americans," he said, "for arms smuggling," said Stacey.

They were released and attempted to sail to Kuching, Sarawak, when they were blown off their course and again arrested, off Banjermpas. Stacey said their yacht, which had no engine, was still held by the Dutch at Banjermpas.

AMERICANS STILL HELD

He said also in the Dutch "concentration camp" in Batavia for the past five months were Franz Gerson, 35-year-old Swiss, and his London-born wife, Maude, 27, who were arrested near Ambon in a mysterious speedboat which had no papers.

Stacey said he was released only because another camp inmate got word to the British Consulate in Batavia. He said the two Americans were still held and the American authorities were not aware they were held in the Batavia camp until he was released to the care of the British Consulate.

Stacey added that 60 Germans from Jogjakarta and 30 Chinese from a ship suspected of smuggling were also held in the Batavia camp.—United Press.

SOONG ARRIVES FROM CANTON

Mr. T. V. Soong, retiring Governor of Kwangtung arrived at Kai-tak this morning in a specially chartered CNAC aircraft.

He told reporters he had nothing to add to his farewell statement issued in Canton yesterday, which he described as "my swan-song."

Asked if he would be going to the United States, as rumoured, Mr. Soong said "Definitely no."

He said he intended to stay in Hongkong, and had asked for a Police escort and guard on his Repulse Bay home.

Asked about his future plans, he said he would have to wait and see the next move in China.

Mr. Soong and his party left the airport in a private launch.

New York Police May Bar British Taxis

New York, Jan. 23.—Police were deciding today whether or not to bar from the city's streets 25 British taxicabs which are being brought to America as an experiment.

The police point out that New York's traffic regulations are so designed to assure for bustling New Yorkers a taxi able to accommodate five passengers comfortably without anyone sitting beside the driver.

British taxicabs, they argue, do not conform with these requirements. According to information

here, their seating capacity is "inadequate."

The four British companies which are sending the taxicabs here have appointed New York lawyer, Morris Ernst to try to overcome the police objection. Ernst said yesterday that he hopes "to do something" to make the police waive the existing regulations.

There are no regulations in other U.S. cities which might bar the British taxis. If the New York police objection is upheld, the cabs are expected to tour 10 other American cities.

American "cabbies" themselves welcome the "invasion" on the whole, but one British cabbie pointed out that he drives 100,000 miles a year in his cab.

"I do not think the British cabs will stand up to that punishment," he said.

Driver Ralph Ramos of New York said that the British cabs "may be all right for underfed Britons, but not for overfed Americans."

"New Yorkers have trouble getting in and out of my cab. How in the world would they get in and out of those little London cabs," he asked.—Associated Press.

EDITORIAL

The Ruhr Agreement

THE Allied agreement on the creation of an international authority for the Ruhr has had one unpremeditated effect. It has revealed sharply the revival of a treacherous and potentially dangerous German nationalism. An agreement which reminds the Germans that for some years, even after the occupation, their heavy industry must remain subject to international control could hardly be popular in Germany. Economically, it may well appear an irksome restriction. Psychologically, it is a reminder of something most Germans would gladly forget, which they would gladly have others forget—that Germany is a defeated nation. And not only that. But also that, released from controls, relieved of reparations, restored to full freedom and full international equality after the First World War, she used that freedom and that equality to prepare for a new war. Clearly the Germans, and especially the Germans of the Ruhr, cannot be expected to show enthusiasm for the new plan any more than for the dismantling of German factories for reparations. There are natural misgivings among workers that the plant removal and control may combine to produce unemployment in the

future. But after the first shock, German Socialists and trade union comment has been notably restrained. It has been critical and has expressed anxieties, and it has stressed the fear of workers that there will still be efforts to prevent the socialisation of the coal and steel industries and that the new authority may in some way be used for that purpose. It is from other quarters that the more ominous noises are coming—from extreme nationalists, industrialists and from the Communists. Symptoms of the disease which destroyed the Weimar Republic are beginning to be visible. The Communist line in Germany is, of course, that German industry is being destroyed for the benefit of Anglo-American capitalism. It accords badly with the Communist thesis outside Germany, which is that German industry is being rebuilt so that the Ruhr may again become an arsenal for war against the Soviet Union. But the Communists care as little for consistency as for facts. The task they have been allotted is to stir up German hatred for the Western democracies, and to make trouble for the Western military governments. And in the Ruhr agreement they see a fine opportunity for damaging tactics.

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WORLD NEWS IN PICTURES



NEW HOME FOR WAR ORPHANS—Sgt. and Mrs. James E. Gantt from Jones, Alabama, try to get a few chuckles out of their newly adopted children upon arrival in New York from Germany. Terry Alan, left, and Julia Duane were chosen from Munich's Catholic Blue Cross Orphanage.



CLOSE SCRUTINY—Marcelle Brüsser, right, seems to think that her companion's gift parcel is a bit better than hers. The 50 French orphans from the Children of the Garden Day School in Paris really had a good time at a party sponsored by ECA employees.



A SAFE HAVEN—Verner Kukk, his wife and two children, who were among 48 Estonians who landed at Wilmington, North Carolina, last summer after a perilous sea voyage in a small boat, are released from Ellis Island, New York. So far, 14 of the group have been released. The others will be freed when the required bond is posted.



GUARD DUTY—An Israeli army armorer, foreground, distributes arms to military police as they go on duty.



A COLD WINTER—English actress Moira Lister huddles into her warm winter coat while showing disapproval of New York weather after her arrival from England. She will appear in America in a British comedy.



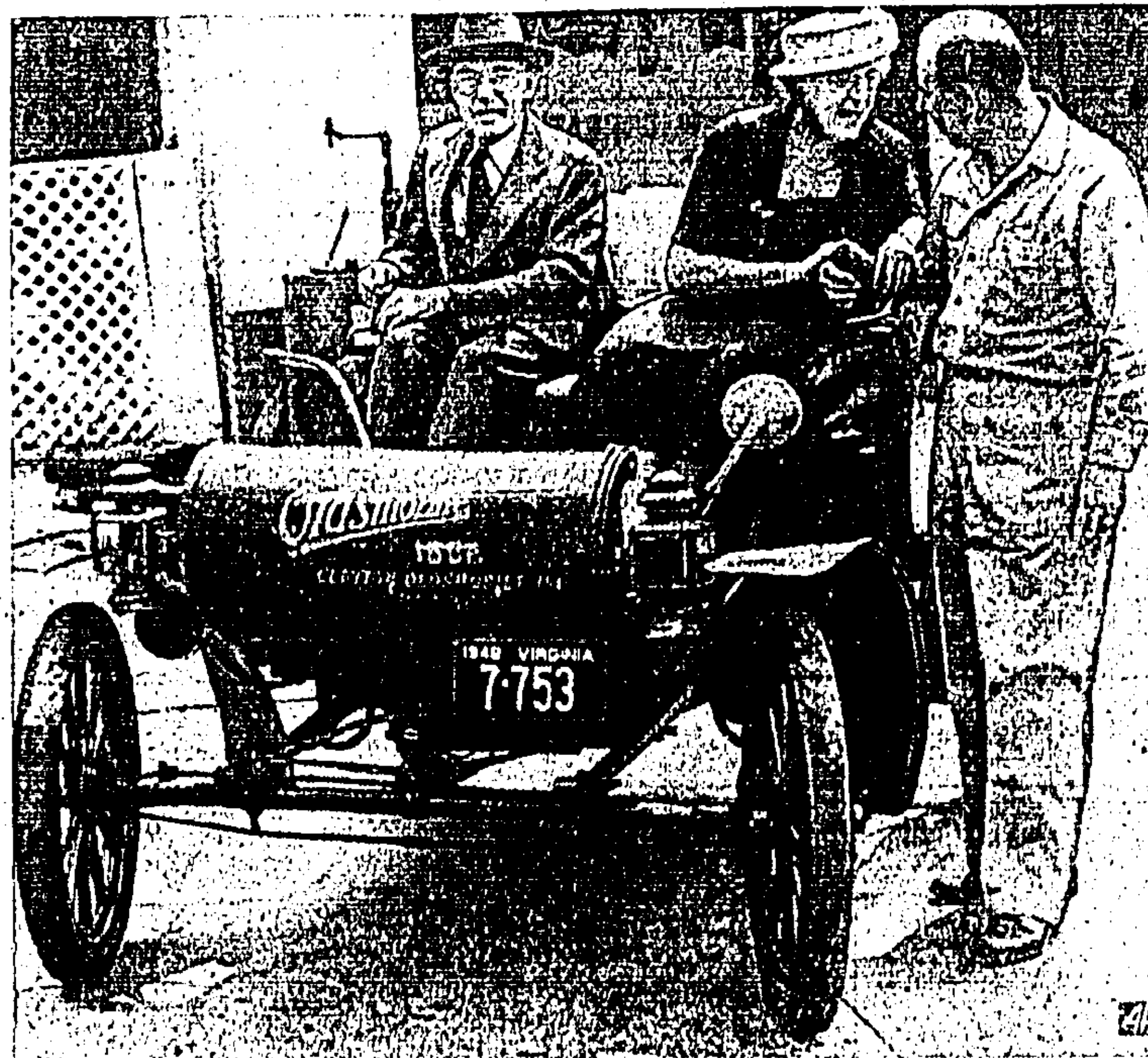
MANIFOLD DUTIES OF MOTHERHOOD—The responsibilities of bringing up a family aren't enough to keep Mrs. Mary Gardner at home. Her children co-operate to enable Mrs. Gardner to be a student at Arizona State College at Flagstaff. The nightly bedtime story is a must before mother can settle down to doing her homework.



CONSTRUCTION IN BULGARIA—Bulgarian youths work side by side with their fathers at this Sofia power project. "Socialism through electrification" says the sign above the entrance.



SELF-SERVICE—Film star Dana Knight helps herself at a novel self-service filling station in Hollywood. The idea is for the customers to help themselves and save money.



OFF FOR MICHIGAN—William Worth (left), 77, sits in his 1902 Oldsmobile with his sister, Miss Eunice Worth of New York City, as they leave Petersburg, Virginia, enroute to Lansing, Michigan. Worth has a promise there of a new car in exchange for his turn-of-the-century model. This is his second attempt at the trip, the previous one ending in a collision.

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GAY RED

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New—Exciting—yes—the most beautiful women in the world depend on Tangee, the world's finest lipstick. And Tangee GAY RED is just the color you need to step up your "lip-appeal". Beautiful women like Mrs. Adolphe Menjou, Mrs. Randolph Scott, to name a few, say GAY RED is the "hit color" of the year...

—because this exciting new shade really does make your lips look young and gay!

—because it gives you all the famous advantages of Tangee's exclusive Pearl-Flair, Discover GAY RED today.

USE TANGEE AND SEE HOW BEAUTIFUL YOU CAN BE.

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JOAN FONTAINE
Screen Play by E. J. Connelley
Based on the Novel by E. J. Connelley
Directed by E. J. Connelley

OLD LOW'S ALMANACK — PROPHECIES FOR 1949

The Anglo-U.S. League of Political Hasbeens, flushed with their success in
China and Greece, dig the last of the Romanoffs out of Hollywood
To be groomed as the rightful
Russian Government-in-exile.

World Copyright. By arrangement with Evening Standard.

Sefton Delmer's NEWSMAP

I HAVE in front of me as I write a Photostat
copy of one of the most interesting documents
that have come my way for some time.The document is an agreement between the
Indonesian Republic and an American business man,
Mr Matthew Fox, of New York.The agreement provides for the setting up of
an American-Indonesian corporation which is to
have the monopoly not only over all trade between
America and Indonesia, but over the exploration
and exploitation of this rich country's resources.The language of the preamble is almost as
idealistic and optimistic in the prospects it holds
out as that of any of the Soviet monopoly agree-
ments in Rumania or Hungary. And its terms are
not much different either. The
Americans get 51 per cent of the
voting shares in the corpora-
tion, the Indonesians 49.tacking his European allies, the
anti-Communist Dutch, and
supporting Japan's ex-satellite
Dr. Soekarno and his Commu-
nist guerillas.**The danger:
Conflicts
in the West
could face
us with a 'Berlin' on
a world-wide scale...**British, French, and American oc-
cupiers is bound to increase in any
case as fuller stomachs and the
failure of the dismantling of Ger-
man war plants cause German self-
confidence to grow.foresee German guerillas
harassing our forces in Germany.

FRANCE, ITALY

COMMUNIST agitation in France
and Italy among the workers
is likely to make fresh headway in
1949. Past American hostility to
General de Gaulle may make
France an even more difficult ally
than she is today if the general
takes over.

MIDDLE EAST

IN the Middle East President Tru-
man's appeasement of the
Jewish minority in America at the
expense of the West with the
relations of the Arab world. Even if
whole of the Arab world, as
peace comes soon to Palestine, as
seems likely, the Communists will
have won a profitable new point of
attack against the West.Some reports insist that the re-
signations of Marshall and Lovett
from the State Department pre-
sage just another switch in President
Truman's policy.It is said that in deference to the
new and less bellicose temper of the
American public, President Truman
intends to drop the tough stuff of
the old Truman doctrine and try a
new "soft" line with Stalin.The cuts which President Truman
imposed recently on the American
rearmament programme are seen as
a first step in this new appeasement
policy.The cuts already have caused
misgivings in Western Europe,
where a strongly armed America
is considered the one guarantee of
peace. Military leaders in America
are becoming unpopular.General Clay is thought to have
overplayed America's hand in Ber-
lin. No one in America is talking
now of preventive war.

'CLOSE PORTS'

BRITAIN also may be driven
into anti-Dutch measures as
a consequence of the Asian con-
ference now being called by the
British Dominion of India. This
conference is to be attended by
anti-Communist Turkey and
anti-Communist Persia as well
as all the countries of the Arab
League. India will call on all
these countries to close their
airports and sea ports to Dutch
traffic.In this event the Dutch will
ask us to let them land in the
Cocos Islands and Mauritius in
order to keep their air route to
the East open. If Mr Bevin
agrees he will have trouble with
India. If he does not he will
have trouble with the Dutch.In any case it means further
disunion in the anti-Communist
front.

SERMAN'

THE Russians in Germany are
likely to follow the same tac-
tic I found them following in
Korea. They will hand over to a
Communist Government and with-
draw their occupation forces from
Germany.The German Communist Govern-
ment will then declare that it rules
over the whole Reich. It will
foment disorders among West Ger-
mans. West German discontent with

NEW THREAT

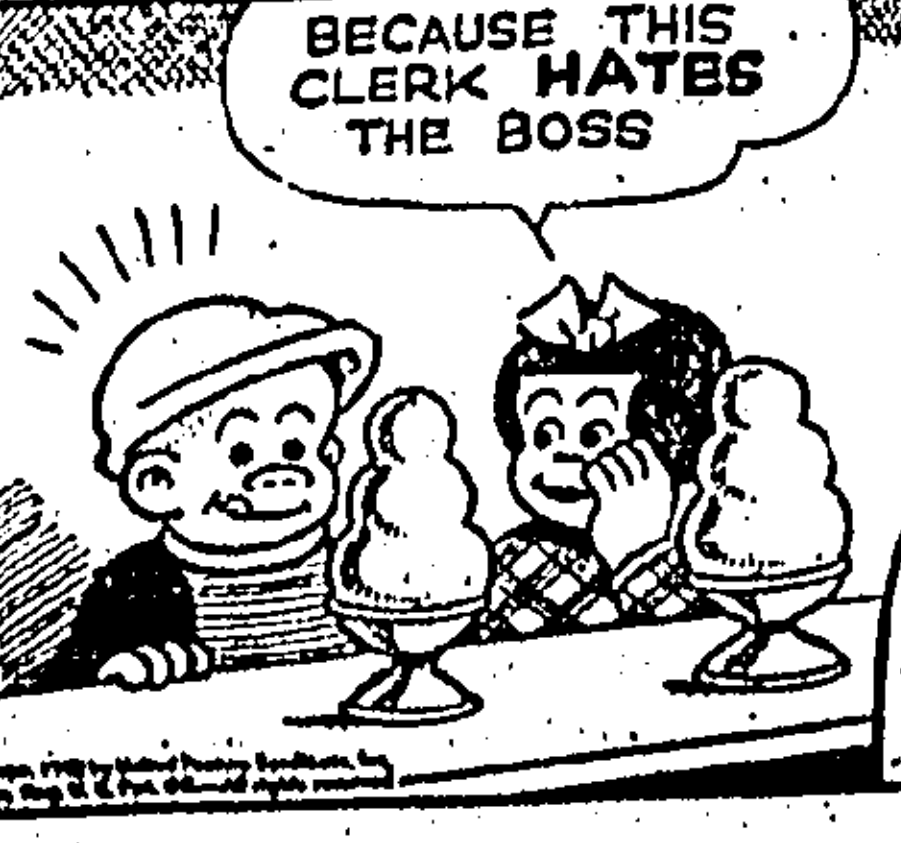
IN the Far East and South-
East Asia, American com-
mercial imperialism and anti-
colonial prejudice have brought
about complete disunion among
the Western anti-Communist
Powers.This Western disunion has
helped the Communists to con-
quer China. They threaten the
European position in British
Malaya and the Dutch East
Indies.Communist control of these
areas would end Russia's crip-

IN REVERSE

BUT even if Mr Truman, like
other Americans, has learned
the lesson he has not been
able to apply it.Instead, he finds himself in
the fantastic situation of re-
versing his Truman doctrine in
Indonesia. For the sake of Mr
Fox and his friends he is at-

NANCY

Psychological Flavour



By Ernie Bushmiller

INSTALMENT 19:

EISENHOWER WAS
MY BOSS

By KAY SUMMERSBY

THE vast operation to clear everything west
of the Rhine began on February 8 with a
strong offensive from the Nijmegen area.
General Ike was jubilant next day, although
bedded down with his bad leg. The doctor from
London, over to try another diagnosis, ordered a
thirty-six-hour rest. And, to everyone's sur-
prise, the Supreme Commander followed orders.
He had a telephone moved to his bedside, of
course, so as to keep in touch with the new
attack.On February 10, First Army reported the
last and most important Roer dam, Schwam-
mannel, in safe hands—clearing the way for
Ninth Army's moonlight assault on February 23,
as the other half of Monty's northern drive to
push to the Rhine.General Eisenhower, meanwhile, continued
to encounter difficulties, both personal and official.
He had a growth taken from his back, leaving
him, as he phrased it, "in stitches."The twenty-second of February
was a big day at headquarters, even
though the Supreme Commander
was down in Normandy inspecting
troops and Red Cross clubs with
General Lear.First of all, it was the start of a
truly gigantic assault to clear
the way for Monty's Big Push a
month later. Secondly, Ninth Army
launched its attack towards the
Rhine to link up with the Canadian
thrust pushed out a fortnight before.
Thirdly, it was the day of our last
move in France, to Rheims, heart of
the famous champagne country.

Better Access

RHEIMS—"Ramses" to the French,
SHAFF better access to forward
areas, in keeping with the Eisen-
hower dictum. But the space and
the furnishings were a come-down
from the Trianon in Versailles.
Instead of a grand hotel in the
shadow of a royal palace, we now
worked in a small old schoolhouse.
Later the site was to become
historic; in February, more than two
months before the surrender cere-
monies, it was only an old red
schoolhouse, nothing more.March battle news came in like
a lion. The day of our arrival back
in Rheims, Monty's Canadian and
American Armies linked up in the
Geldern sector. Three days later,
Cologne fell to the First Army.
That same night, March 7, General
Bradley telephoned the Supreme
Commander with electrifying
news—a small armoured spearhead
had found a bridge still intact over
the Rhine, the Ludendorff railway
bridge at Remagen.General Ike acted with a born
soldier's lightning-fast decision—
grab it, pour in everything we have,
get not less than five divisions
across as soon as possible.General Ike, meantime, felt into
such a state of nerves that he de-
clined to take a brief rest-cure.
An American had written to offer
use of his villa in Cannes. Even
so, it took Beetle four whole days
to convince the General he must
get some relaxation or face a ner-
vous breakdown. Ike agreed only
with the reservation that General
Bradley come along. And, as usual,
he filled up the plane with extra
passengers—Tex, Ruth, Ethel, Nana
and me.

The Riviera

WE took off on March 19 for five
days on the Riviera, which I
hadn't seen since 1939. It was as
peaceful, wasteful, luxurious and
lovely as ever, even in the middle
of a war.General Eisenhower, incognito and
unable to walk around, retired into
the peace of his villa. General
Bradley and aide arrived the next
morning to keep him company. The
rest of us took off for Monte Carlo.
In order to at least pretend the
civilian status required by Monaco,
the men shed caps and insignia and
rolled up their sleeves. We girls
followed suit, wearing slacks.All in all, the stolen holiday, brief
as it was, made time and the war
stand still. We all left the Riviera
feeling rested and refreshed. General
Ike and Bradley had to get back
for the Big Push.At eight o'clock on the night of
the twenty-third, Monty loosed his
famous Desert Rat barrage against
the east bank of the Rhine. When
an hour later they found the sector
so perfectly bombed and shelled
that only 36 casualties were reported
in the taking of the communica-
tions centre. The British Second
Army crossed over on the left; the
American Ninth Army on the right.
(Continued on Page 5)

I STILL HOPE

NOW, of course, disunion and un-
certainty of policy is one of the
standard shortcomings of democra-
tic coalitions—especially in times of
peace.But the lack of solidarity I and
the West here in these opening
weeks of 1949 seems to me particu-
larly dangerous.Because it presents a picture of
Western weakness liable to exag-
geration by the Russians and there-
fore capable of prompting them to
increase their pressure.Because it is the kind of situa-
tion which might well deteriorate
still further.But I have not given up hope.
Truman has won his election. He
is a freer man in 1949 than he was
during the election year of 1948.If he can shake off his sub-
servience to the pressure groups,
and give the world strong, un-
flinching leadership, he will still
save peace and the Western way
of life.

P.W.D. LARCENY TRIAL:

WITNESS OUTLINES ORGANISATION OF ELECTRIC OFFICE

A prosecution witness, J. C. Brown, Chief Electrical and Mechanical Engineer of the Public Works Department, during cross-examination by the defence this morning, told the Court that though Spary was officer-in-charge of the Wanchai workshop of the P.W.D. electrical office, his duties often took him to Kowloon, and it was no surprise to the witness to hear that he had been seen there during working hours.

Brown was testifying before Mr Justice Reynolds at the Criminal Sessions on the fourteenth day of the trial of two Public Works Department employees on charges of theft of Government stores.

Accused are Kwok Kwong, 47, foreman, and Austin Spary, 50, electrical inspector, Grade 1, both of the Public Works Department. They are charged on nine counts of larceny by public servant, one of obtaining money by false pretences from the steward of the Kowloon Bowling Green Club and one of conspiracy to defraud the Government of money.

Mr Percy Chen, instructed by Mr C. A. Russ, is appearing for Kwok and Spary is represented by Mr V. J. L. Dalton, instructed by Mr P. J. Griffiths. Appearing for the prosecution is Mr A. Hooton, Crown Counsel, assisted by Chief Insp. J. Johnston, and Det. Sub-Insp. D. G. MacPherson, of the Special Branch.

The Jury empanelled comprises four men and three women. James Connell Brown, Chief Electrical and Mechanical Engineer, Public Works Department, continued his evidence this morning. On Friday, he had spoken of the organisation of his office and of the duties of the Inspectors in charge of both the Wanchai and Hungnam workshops.

Speaking of the daily labour distribution and job reports, Brown said there was a duty on the foreman to keep those forms daily. Such forms were usually signed by the foreman, the time-keeper and the inspector of the workshop, and were used for paying the cost of the labour of the different workers.

The Pay Office obtained their information from the daily labour distribution and job reports, and the pay sheets were made up of a combination of the time sheet and the reports. The reports for Hungnam were compiled in Wanchai from information supplied by Hungnam.

Cross-examined by Mr Dalton on the organisation of the electrical office of the P.W.D., witness said he had succeeded to the post of Chief Engineer. The post of Electrical Engineer was at present vacant, but that of Chief Electrician had been abolished. Spary, as Chief Electrician, was directly under him, said witness, since there was no Electrical Engineer. Witness agreed that since the re-occupation of the Colony, there had been a very heavy increase of work in his office, and it was possibly three or four times greater than pre-war.

Mr Dalton: Do you agree that in the case of an Inspector these altered circumstances would in effect alter the nature of his duties to a large extent, that is, he would be given more designing work to do, specifications, etc., and would not have so much time to supervise his foreman?

Witness: Yes. I understand that in the case of the Inspector at Wanchai he has lately had a European Electrical Inspector of Works Class II?

INSPECTOR'S DUTIES And his duties would comprise, nominally anyway, the supervision under the general control of the electrical engineer of all works connected with electric installations in Government buildings, including lifts, heaters, motors, switch gears, etc., and in the absence of the electrical engineer this Inspector Class II would come under the officer-in-charge?—He would certainly in the beginning.

Mr Justice Reynolds: The OIC in this case is Spary? Mr Dalton: Yes. (To witness) He would be general assistant while learning his business, checking labour, transport, etc.—Yes. In fact, he would take some of the physical work off the hands of the OIC?—Yes.

Brown agreed that it was possible that the officer-in-charge of the Hongkong workshop would be called upon to do some work in Kowloon. Mr Dalton: Do you agree that such jobs as I will now mention, although in Kowloon, were really under the supervision of Spary and required his presence there, such as the typhoon signals and mast. Was that not his work?

Witness: Yes. He was all over the Colony?—Yes.

And the Kowloon-Canton Railway clocks, including the big station clock?—Yes, the one in the tower. The Royal Observatory barometer testing chamber?—Yes.

The Arlington Hotel lifts rehabilitation work, that is his responsibility too?—Yes.

The electrically operated ferry ramps?—Yes.

And the question of the Kai Tak Airport traffic lights for the air strips, these were designed by Spary, were they not?—Yes.

And although Spary had left Hungnam for Wanchai before that job was entirely finished, you would think it quite natural that he would continue to take an interest in it, having designed them in the first place? He would want to see how they turned out?—Yes.

Now, these jobs I have mentioned, with the exception of the Kai Tak Airport, had labour furnished by Wanchai in many cases?—Yes.

What about the Kai Tak Airport?—From Hungnam. The construction of the lights themselves was done in Wanchai.

It would therefore occasion you no surprise if you heard that Spary had been seen at the Airport, or even if he had been seen having a drink in the bar of the Kowloon Bowling Green Club? Would that astonish you?—No.

Mr Justice Reynolds: That would be during working hours? Spary lives in Kowloon, so he might be at the Club after office hours.

Mr Dalton: Yes, my Lord. (To witness) He had in fact to go over quite often in the course of his duties?—Yes, to see to these various things.

Do you know whether Spary had a regular time for going over to Kowloon?—He had no regular time, but very often went on Saturday mornings.

Now, in regard to the question of stores. On the island side, at least before the beginning of this case, is it correct to say that there was in fact only one Government store, that is, in North Point?—That was the main store.

Would you go further and say it was the Government store?—Yes. There were no Government regulations regarding stores in Wanchai or, for that matter, at Hungnam when this case began?—They had not been promulgated, but there were regulations under consideration.

In fact, however, whatever names one gives to these institutions, the store at Wanchai was really a transient store, in that stores came from North Point for jobs, and whether that store was in Wanchai or Hungnam did not really matter?—Yes, they were in transit.

So if Hungnam wished to draw stores direct from North Point, they could have done so, provided all the formalities had been complied with?—Yes.

In respect to the question of Spary's quarters at Hungnam above the workshop, of which we have heard quite a bit, it is true to say, is it not, that Spary occupied these quarters on the instructions of the P.W.D.?—He was allocated those quarters.

It was not the result of an application by him?—No.

Now, the matter of the relationship between Spary and May. Spary has been in the P.W.D. for over 20 years?—Yes.

During the war he was a POW and on his release he went to Australia for recuperation?—Yes.

IN-SAME RANK On his return he found to put it bluntly, that he had been superseded by May? Would it go as far as that?—No. He was in the same rank, but he was senior in length of service.

Brown agreed that there had been an enquiry by Mr Cryan, former Chief Electrical and Mechanical Engineer, some time in 1946, regarding whether May had taken Clark's position as Chief Electrician. An affirmative reply had been sent to that enquiry, as May was getting paid as Acting Chief Electrician.

Mr Dalton: Three or four months after that, May went into hospital, in February or March, 1947?—March, 1947.

On his leaving hospital May then moved to Wanchai, and thereafter they were on equal footing, more or less?—Yes, both were Electrical Inspectors, Grade I.

Would you say that Wanchai workshop is a much bigger establishment than Hungnam in that it employs between 300-400 men in comparison with 60-70 at Hungnam?—The actual total strength of electricians is about 330 or 340, and of this, 80 are for Hungnam.

And the work at Wanchai was correspondingly greater than at Hungnam?—It was the main workshop.

Questioned on various forms used in the electrical office Brown agreed that none of the forms in use existed before the war, with the exception of the stores requisition form. He also agreed that May was responsible for devising the estimate and cost sheets after the re-occupation of the Colony.

Brown admitted that just before the present case began, Spary had made a suggestion to him that some telephone operators be taken off their jobs and put on to the work of taking inventories of electrical installations in Government buildings.

Mr Dalton: Is it true that Spary had, on various occasions, expressed to you uneasiness or dissatisfaction with regard to the lack of supervising staff?—Yes.

Did you take any action in the matter?—Yes. I wrote to the Director of Public Works asking that the establishment of foremen for my office be fixed and that we be given as many as we had before the war.

And also for Europeans?—Yes. Was any action taken?—It had to do with as a departmental matter for the whole Department.

Togliatti Adds Voice To Red "Peace" Offensive

Rome, Jan. 23.—The Italian Communist leader, Signor Palmiro Togliatti, speaking here today at a meeting at which the veteran French Communist, M. Marcel Cachin, who also present, reiterated M. Cachin's recent statement that agreement between Russia and the United States was possible. "It is not inevitable that two systems such as the capitalism of the United States and the Communism of the Soviet Union must clash, and that their rivalry must necessarily end in war," Signor Togliatti said.

They can and should co-operate on economic questions and settle by mutual accord any potential conflicts. The march towards Socialism and Communism is inevitable, but it should be a peaceful one. M. Cachin said: "Tomorrow Communism will master the world. Today its enemies are strong and have powerful fleets, air forces and the atomic bomb. But this is nothing in the face of the union of all the workers' forces."—Reuter.

REDS DRIVE TOWARD NANKING

Continued from Page 1

The pamphlets said the Communists guaranteed the protection of private capital and property, as well as private capital currently controlled by the government in factories, banks and public utilities. They still insisted that provincial and local government officials, excepting "such war criminals," remain in their posts during the period when the Communists are taking over the city.

Sunday afternoon newspaper reports said that one Communist column already had entered Peiping under the truce agreement, but foreign newspapermen were unable to find it. Nationalist troops have been evacuating the city since early morning and discussions between the Nationalist and Communist forces on technical issues continued tonight.

It appeared that the Communists fulfilled the agreement to withdraw troops around the city to a distance of 10 miles. The Nationalist troops, whose discipline has been excellent, left the city for mustering points to the southwest. Some remained at crucial points inside the city to maintain order.

The Nationalist commander, General Fu Tso-yi, appeared to have arranged the truce in such way that law and order was maintained and there was no visible sign of looting or other disorders.

The form of the administration has not been determined but it is expected to include two generals from each side. Many stories were circulated to the effect that Nationalist-Communist peace talks would be held in Peiping and it was understood that Marshal Li Chi-sen, leader of the Hongkong anti-government group, was expected to arrive here from Shanghai. Official provincial organizations and police bureaus functioned normally. A curfew was still imposed.—United Press.

APPROACH TO LIBERALS Shanghai, Jan. 24.—In a determined effort to attain peace, high government officials are coming to Shanghai courting the favour and asking the aid of top figures in the outlawed and semi-fugitive Democratic League in peace negotiations. President Li Tsung-jen's personal adviser, Kan Kai-hou, called on Shanghai's top liberals, including Madame Sun Yat-sen and the Democratic League chief, Chang Lan, yesterday asking their aid in peace negotiations. Nanking's peace mission leader, Shao Litzze and the former Premier, Chen Kai-sun, are expected to be in Shanghai today to continue efforts to introduce new blood into the Nationalist leadership.

The developments came as the outlawed League showed signs of coming back to full political life on its own. The Shanghai offshoot of the League, Chinese Citizens Progressive Association, issued a manifesto demanding immediate action to restore political freedom, oust the Rightist clique which has dominated the Kuomintang and give China's liberals and leftists a voice in peace talks.

The manifesto paralleled reported plans by acting President Li to practise "many emergency reforms."

BID FOR POWER Taken together, the two developments were regarded here as the first moves in the rise to power of men that General Marshall sought to hoist into leadership in his unsuccessful mediation mission during 1946.

Whether their bid would be ignored this time by the victorious

In fact, you have not had the men?—The posts have not been approved.

What about the European staff?—We have an establishment.

Further questioned, Brown admitted that the duty of the Inspectors was purely nominal. Under the circumstances of the time, they did not have the time to go around to all the various jobs, and had to rely to a large extent on the foremen.

Witness also agreed that many of the clerical staff of the electrical office were recruited from the ranks of the electricians, and were paid as such. He considered that as they were doing a job of work, they were doing their fair share. There were no special votes for the clerical staff, but there was no official authority for paying the men for work which they did not do.

Asked whether it was not the case that stores in the Wanchai workshop might at times be worth as much as \$150,000, witness agreed that was so. He also admitted they were in charge of a Chinese charwoman, store-keeper named Chan Ning-cheung, who was a daily paid labourer earning \$6.50 a day. He did not consider the position at all satisfactory as it was too much responsibility for a man who was paid a daily labour rate. The European Inspector was unable to carry out full supervision of the store, added witness, as he had too much work to do.

The trial is proceeding.

Communists or whether many of these liberals now have lost their independence and gone over to Communism were questions on which informed sources here disagreed.

The group's manifesto, in 13 demands, called principally for the resignation of "reactionary elements" of the Kuomintang; and the reorganisation of the party under the direction of the leftwing Revolutionary Committee headed by Marshal Li Chi-sen, who is currently in North China talking peace with the Reds.

The Democratic League also demanded: Abolition of the Kuomintang constitution, the lifting of restrictions on the freedom of speech and press, release of imprisoned students, confiscation of "bureaucratic capital," arrest of "members of favoured families and war-seeking elements for prosecution," and an invitation to all "honest foreign correspondents who have been in the Chinese (presumably including Edgar Snow and Theodore White) to re-enter and observe developments in New China."—United Press.

EISENHOWER WAS MY BOSS

Continued from Page 4

At one o'clock on the morning of March 24, the airborne attack began, the two divisions making contact by afternoon.

This two-hour landing represented a historic degree of planning, timing, and fighting—a peak of joint effort by two Allies. As General Eisenhower described it in his report to the Combined Chiefs of Staff, Allied operation in the fullest sense.

After all these campaigns up to the Rhine and the crossings themselves, I lost interest in the grand strategy. From then on, like everyone else, I became lost in the confusing but exciting avalanche of individual victories and new advances and mass surrenders which made up the month of April.

The first fortnight of April was a field-day of Allied reports: Kassel cleared. . . Weimar and Erfurt cleared. . . Ninth and First Armies encircle Ruhr pocket, largest double envelopment in history, trapping 2 divisions. Prisoners become a problem. . . Ruhr pocket split in two. . . Karlsruhe, Schweinfurt, Rhine fall. . . Fourth Armoured at outskirts of Chemnitz. . . Jena cleared. . .

On April 27, General Eisenhower sent two staff officers to Holland. They found General Blaskowitz unwilling to consider surrender as long as any form of resistance continued inside Germany.

On April 29, the Supreme Commander sent Beetle, along with other Allied staff officers and a Russian representative, to meet General Blaskowitz. Both sides agreed to the truce, the Germans emphasising their promises, the Allies postponing any further advance.

That same day General Alexander sent a message to General Eisenhower that the Germans in north Italy would surrender, effective at noon, May 2.

I wrote in my diary: At midnight the German radio announced Adolf Hitler had died at his post.

(COPYRIGHT TO BE CONTINUED TOMORROW)

Rhodes Conference

Continued from Page 1

After 20 minutes all was quiet again and there were no reports of any casualties.

The three-nations Conciliation Commission, charged by the General Assembly with helping the Jews and Arabs to decide the future of the country, is expected in Jerusalem tomorrow.

Composed of representatives of the United States, France and Turkey, the Commission left Geneva, where it held several preliminary meetings, by air on Thursday.

PRESS TRIP CANCELLED Dr Azcarate, a Spanish Republican aged 63, who served for many years in the League of Nations, was until now United Nations representative with the Arab League headquarters in Cairo.

Dr Azcarate, who is staying at the King David Hotel, is already in contact with the Jewish and Arab authorities. Today he saw Dr Dov Joseph (formerly Dr Bernard Joseph), the Israeli Military Governor of Jerusalem, and was to confer later with Colonel Abdullah El Tel, the Arab Military Governor of the Old City.

A trip to the compound of Government House, arranged for journalists for this afternoon to see the Conciliation Commission's headquarters, was cancelled, it was understood, at Dr Azcarate's request. No reason was given.—Reuter.

PARLIAMENTARY CLASH

London, Jan. 23.—The Foreign Secretary, Mr Ernest Bevin, will report to the Cabinet tomorrow on the latest developments in the Palestine situation, it was learned tonight.

The Conservative Parliamentary Opposition may vote in censure of the Government's Palestine policy should it be dissatisfied with Mr Bevin's statement next Wednesday in the House of Commons debate.

For the first time the Government will face a major debate on foreign policy without any assurance of support from the Opposition. The Government's large Parliamentary majority almost rules out any possibility of an adverse vote winning the day, but it will be powerless to prevent a verbal demonstration by members of all parties, notwithstanding the expected British recognition of the State of Israel.

Most political quarters are convinced that the Government's decision to recognise Israel was taken by the Cabinet last Monday, after what some describe as a division of opinion and others a "clash." The Health Minister, Mr Aneurin Bevan, the chief left-wing figure in the Cabinet, is believed by some to have led the pressure upon the Foreign Secretary.

Left-wing critics, who are not expected to vote against the Government though some may abstain, will probably argue that the recognition of Israel is not the issue and that what matters are the methods of recognition and the actions that follow.—Reuter.

FIRE AT BEAUTY PARLOUR

Three fire appliances were rushed from Central Fire Station shortly after 9 a.m. today to 22 Connaught Road, where a fire had started in the King Kwok Beauty Parlour on the first floor. It was found that the fire was caused by a short circuit. The blaze was soon brought under control.

KOWLOON FIRES

At 11:40 pm last night, the Kowloon Fire Brigade sent two appliances to Winglow Street, in the Hungnam district, where a few pieces of large timber had caught fire on open ground. Only slight damage was caused.

Earlier in the evening, at 7:40 pm, the Brigade sent an appliance to No 24 Hungnam Road, second floor, where there was a chimney fire, which was soon extinguished.

SIDE GLANCES

By Galbraith

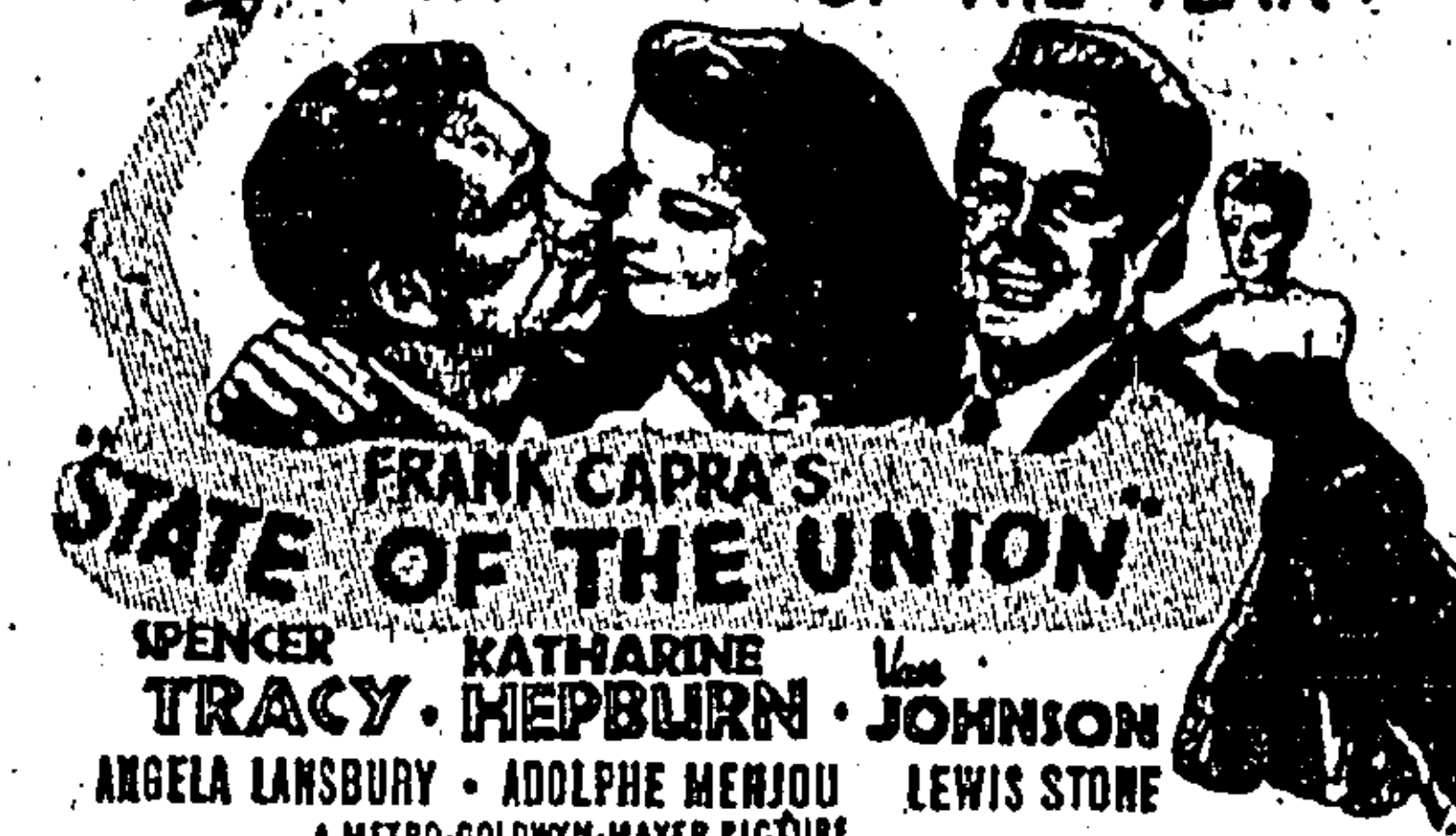


"Now that I have got two children ready for school, I decided to cut down your eggs from four minutes to two!"

QUEEN'S & ALHAMBRA

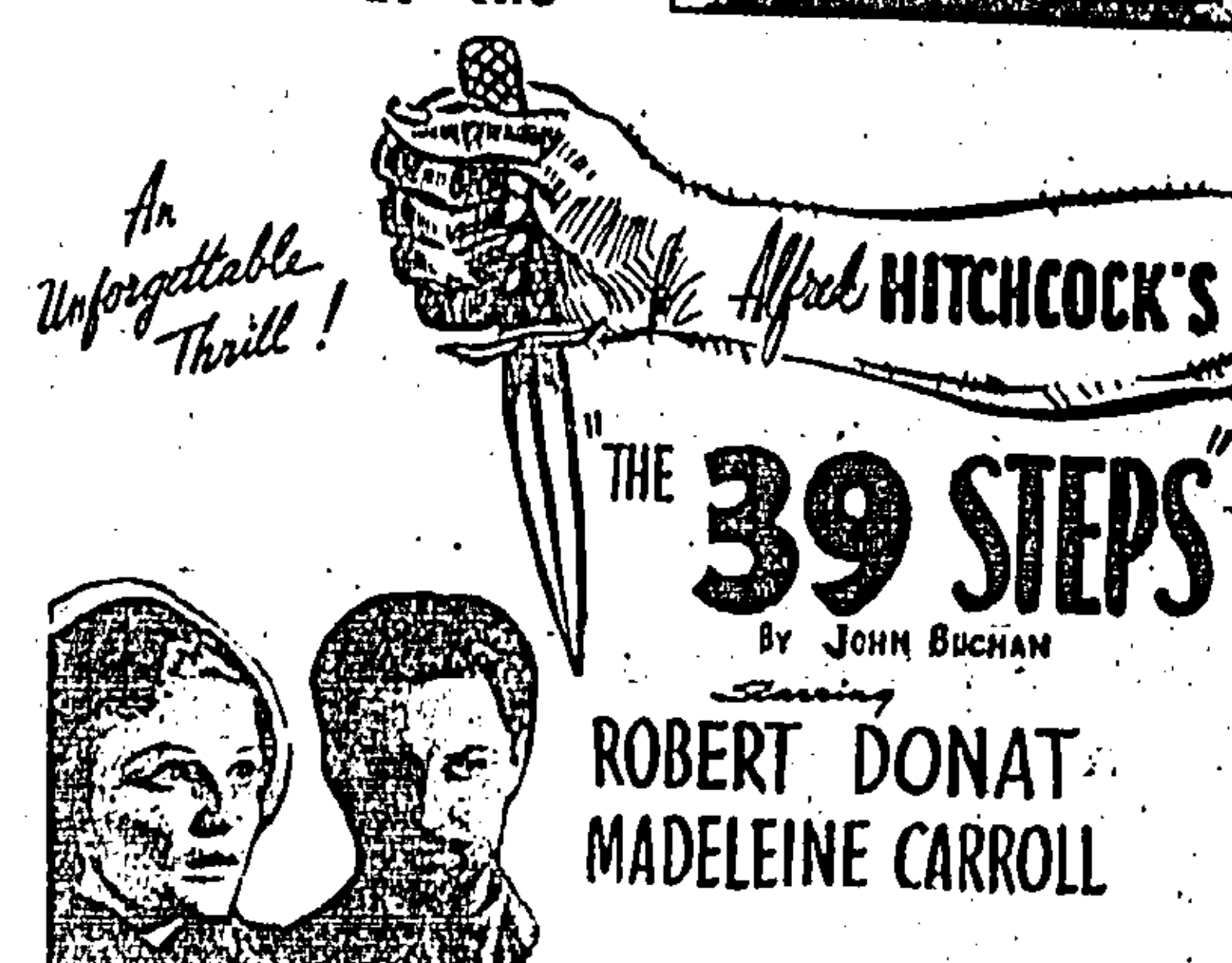
SHOWING TO-DAY AT 2.30, 5.00, 7.15 & 9.30 P.M.

ONE OF THE TEN BEST OF THE YEAR!



OPENS TO-MORROW! "TOPPER RETURNS" at the ALHAMBRA! Joan Blondell • Roland Young

NEXT CHANGE at the QUEEN'S



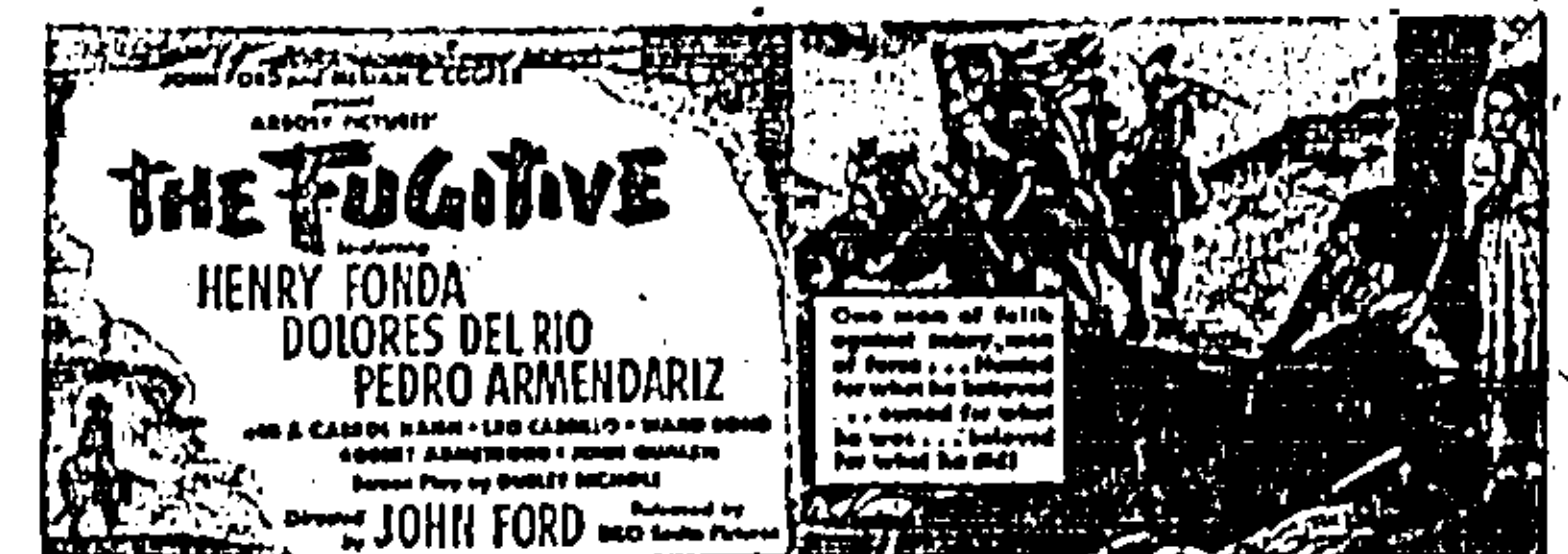
SHOWING TO-DAY MAJESTIC At 2.30, 5.20, 7.20 & 9.20 p.m.



NEXT CHANGE James CAGNEY in "FRISCO KID"

SHOWING TO-DAY Cathay AT 2.30, 5.20, 7.30 & 9.30 P.M.

DARING! UNIQUE! POWERFUL! One of Mightiest Stories of All Time!



NEXT CHANGE:—Cary Grant • Myrna Loy • Shirley Temple in ROMANTIC BLACKMAIL . . . THAT PAYS OFF IN LAUGH! "THE BACHELOR and the BOBBY-SOXER"

Aids For Catching Criminals

Continued from Page 1

But Scotland Yard chiefs maintain again that with more men available for ordinary patrol in residential and commercial districts they could prevent a large number of crimes which now have to be followed up.

NO GANGSTERDOM They admit that with the present shortage of policemen, criminals can work in many places without much chance of being disturbed. The aim is to have a policeman on duty every few hundred yards.

Suggestions that increased foreign elements in London since the war have been responsible for a number of crimes are not confirmed by Scotland Yard. The "local product" is still mainly responsible for most offences, they say, and the methods used by criminals remain more or less the same from year to year.

There are no signs in London yet of "gangsterdom" as it is known in the United States. London criminals occasionally work in gangs but detectives have found that they break up quickly, mainly because they get suspicious of each other.—Reuter.

Radio Hongkong

11.30. Programme Summary: 6.01, "It's Gwine Time"; 6.20, Portuguese Half Hour (Studio); 7. World News and Analysis (London Relay); 7.15, "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer" by Jonathan Svy. (Studio); 7.30, Hospital Report. Half Hour Presented by Nan Dickinson. (Studio); 8. "From the Editor's Desk" (London Relay); 8.10, English Madrigals sung by the Cambridge University Madrigal Society; 8.20, "I Like What You Like" presented by Jack Jacob. Linda Carter Talks on Films (Studio); 8.30, London Playhouse "Brighton Rock"; 8.40, Radio News Reel (London Relay); 10.15, London Studio Concert. The Doy of "Gangsterdom" as it is known in the United States. London criminals occasionally work in gangs but detectives have found that they break up quickly, mainly because they get suspicious of each other.—Reuter.

FOR YOUR SPARE MOMENTS

FOR THE BUSINESSMAN

38 Nations Accept Invitations To Wheat Conference

Washington, Jan. 22.—Thirty-eight nations, including Russia, have accepted invitations to attend the International Wheat Conference, which opens here on Wednesday.

Under the sponsorship of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation, the conference will seek to fix standard international wheat prices and to create machinery for allocating the world wheat supply.

The State Department said that 62 nations had been invited, and that the conference opens. A spokesman said that the American Embassy in Moscow had notified the State Department that four Russians would attend the conference, and visas had been granted. Russia did not attend the 1948 conference.

American officials are optimistic about getting a new world wheat agreement this time which will be approved by Congress. This, officials said, would assure American farmers of a market for 155,000,000 bushels annually for at least five years if the agreement were drafted along the lines favoured by the United States.

Officials here reported that Ireland had accepted an invitation to attend the conference, and would have a three-man delegation, headed by Timothy O'Connell, assistant Secretary of Agriculture for Ireland.

Authorities here said that Ireland would participate with its main interest as an importing country, and that the price agreed upon will be somewhat lower than in the agreement drafted last year.

This prospect is based upon the recently increased world supplies of wheat, and the probability that there will be surpluses in some producing countries.

The decision of Russia to attend the conference surprised nearly everyone here, as Russia ignored such conferences before the war. The decision indicates that Russia has also foreseen that the world wheat supply in the near future will be abundant, making it harder for Russia to export her wheat once the harvests there are fully restored after the wartime ravages.

Other countries who will participate in the conference include the world's four other largest wheat exporting nations, Canada, Argentina, Australia, and the United States. (The fifth of the big exporters is Russia). Also present will be some of the biggest consumers, such as the United Kingdom, France and Italy.

Others who have accepted invitations include Bolivia, Burma, Ceylon, Costa Rica, Cuba, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Salvador, Ethiopia, Iran, Liberia, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Poland, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Turkey, South Africa, Uruguay, Brazil, China, Sweden, Netherlands, Belgium, Portugal, Luxembourg, Finland, India, the Lebanon and Paraguay—United Press.

ATOMIC FERTILISER?
Hobart, Jan. 23.—Atomic research in Canada may produce better wheat crops in Australia, Professor G. M. Schrum, Physics Professor at the British Columbia University, told the Australian and New Zealand Science Congress in Hobart.

Experiments were being carried out with phosphate fertiliser containing radioactive phosphorus, he said.

Australian economy was working at only 70 per cent capacity, despite full employment, Professor D. B. Copland, former Australian Prices Commissioner, told the Congress.

Unless the Australian dollar policy was changed, he said, Australia would have to import some food should the population reach the million mark, and agricultural products remain at the prewar level.

"Instead of making strenuous efforts to meet dollar difficulties by expanding exports and borrowing in the United States to meet the dollar deficit," Mr. Copland added, "we are adopting a course of restricting dollar imports."—Reuter.

French "Victory" Over Inflation
Paris, Jan. 23.—All indications showed that the stability of the franc and victory over inflation were in sight, M. Maurice Pleschke, the French Finance Minister, said in a broadcast today.

He was appealing to the French people to subscribe to the new national reconstruction loan, for which subscriptions open tomorrow.

M. Pleschke said French production last year was 15 per cent more than in 1948. The Government had made economies totalling 50,000 million francs in four months.—Reuter.

Italy Planning To Build More Ships
Rome, Jan. 23.—The Italian Minister of Shipping, Signor Giuseppe Saragat, announced here that Italy will build new passenger and cargo ships totalling 700,000 tons between 1949 and 1952, thanks to Marshall aid.

The Italian merchant shipping fleet is now estimated at little more than 30 per cent of its prewar tonnage.—Reuter.

US Govt. Officials Back "Bold Plan"

Washington, Jan. 23.—High United States Government officials are expected to recommend the promotion of industrial development abroad by offering long-term agreements to buy vital materials, it was learned here today.

They suggest that this measure should be part of the "bold program" to develop backward areas overseas outlined by President Truman in his inaugural speech on Thursday.

Mr. Paul G. Hoffman, the ERP Administrator, is known to be among those favouring such a plan.—Reuter.

N.Y. Scrap Market

New York, Jan. 22.—The following prices were quoted in the scrap metals market here today:

Copper, F.O.B. per ton \$10.50/11.00
Lead, F.O.B. per ton 10.50/11.00
Steel, F.O.B. per ton (No. 1 heavy melting) 30.50/31.50
—United Press.

Exchange Rates

Business was done in the local unofficial exchange market this morning at the following rates:

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P.T.C. notes (per 100) 21.50
Siam ticals (per 100) 21.50
H.K. dollars (per 100) 21.50
Gold yuan (per 100) 21.50
—Closing Times by Sea Bangkok 3 p.m.

BY THE WAY

I HAVE always regarded mixed reading as even more of a social menace than mixed bathing. I therefore deplore the decision of a certain public library to follow the pagan example of the British Museum, and to allow men and women to read in the same room.

Whispered words over the catalogues, the pressure of a hand, a wild cry from one of the desks—these are commonplace in the Museum Reading Room. "Rhodol Rhodol! You must choose between me and Calabrian ceramics," "Norman!" "Mr. Bailey!" "Peep-bo, Mrs. Foster—Carmen!—I see you behind those fourteen volumes of Hogarth's 'The Licensers and Muses of the New World'." "Hush, Martin, that woman behind the folio is listening!" "For one smile, see I throw Von Döppelheim on the Calculus to the floor!" "Oh, Mr. Spratt!" "Bird Migration be damned!"

What it leads to.
THE attendants in the Museum Reading Room will talk of a roughish girl who used to cause a riot by blowing kisses from the gallery. One day a party of professors caught her, and carried her down and hoisted her on to desk K. 9. She did a dance, and the readers crowded round, applauding. A very high official was sent for, and the professors were ordered back to their books.

Her name? Spinelly, of course.

See Kohlhaus; Das Betrenges Leuter Vol. III, pp 24-35 et. seq. op. cit. q.v. hum. Also Julie Chaplain's Le Long du Canal (Poche 1937); Grossweller passim; Jagerauch's Idiotismus in the Varn edition, revised by Spiegel and Fetzheim, with commentary by Kortright.

Indian commentary
The Gurkhas will, in future, be called Gorkhas. (News item.)

IT WAS the Rajah of Dandurtpore who, while breaking a bottle on the stern of an elephant, cried, "Thereby hangs a tale." But that is another story, as the architect said when the householder complained of a smell in the attic.

CHECK YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Answers
1. In 1789 by Klaproth, a German chemist. 2. Joghakaria. 3. Economic Co-operation Administration. 4. Jess Willard. 5. Portuguese East Africa. 6. In Athens, Greece.

AROUND THE WORLD

The Famous Cro-Magnon Caves

By TEMPLE MANNING

WE remember meeting up with an interesting family one year while crossing to Europe. Father and mother liked the good things of life, so they were planning a side trip to Perigueux, home not only of those wonderful truffles, but of equally worthy fare and cooking. Brother was on his way to Carcassonne, to see the world's most wonderful walled and fortified town, while sister, an honour student at Vassar, had listed as her star attraction a visit to the Cro-Magnon caves.

Since Perigueux and Cro-Magnon are adjacent and both on the road to Carcassonne out of Paris, there had been no trouble in preparing that itinerary. From their letters afterwards, it seems that sister had the most profitable time since she did mangle articles on the wonderful caves in the valley of the Dordogne, caves that have yielded an amazing picture of the dawn of man.

Tiny Village

Huddled beneath the ledges of a huge rock is a tiny village, Les Eyzies. Until 10 years ago, it was just a lovely little village by the Vézère. Some workmen, engaged in the construction of a railway embankment between Les Eyzies and Cro-Magnon, unearthed a small cave, almost full of unrecognisable debris, and then came upon five skeletons, with skulls of such unusual construction that even the men, none of whom would lay



Cro-Magnon man drawing in cave.

claim to being a scientist, recognised that these could not be the skeletons of humans as they knew them. Experts soon arrived, and the contents of the cave, together with other discoveries soon made nearby, offered convincing testimony that the region had been inhabited by a prehistoric race, which, for the purposes of science, has been dubbed "Cro-Magnon."

The skull known as the "old man of Cro-Magnon" entered the cave as a deposit on it from a calcareous drip from the roof of the rock—a formation that could only have been made during thousands of years. They were big folk, varying from nearly six feet to nearly five inches more than that. The skulls were very well developed in the frontal region, so it wasn't surprising that scientists, when digging further in to the caves, came upon astounding art work, all the more remarkable in that the men who did them, had to fight for survival against giant animals.

Something To See

The drawings and the sculptures are something to see and to marvel at. As our friend said, the caves of Cro-Magnon certainly do, or should, tend to debate modern man who thinks he knows all and does everything far better than it has ever been done before. What impressed her and the thousands that have visited the caves, is that these people knew full well that when man is ill he is pale, and that when he dies, he gets paler still. So they coloured the bodies of their dead with a rosy pigment to simulate life glow. They knew, too, the relative position and shape of the heart, as a cavemural indicates.

On the road to Cro-Magnon from Perigueux there are some really lovely little hamlets and towns, each in a picture-like setting. One of the most beautiful is Cadouin, whose church has what people hereabouts believe to be a shred of the winding sheet of Christ, brought back from the First Crusade. (Tomorrow—Science At Work)

DUMB BELLS



Check Your Knowledge

1. When and by whom was uranium first discovered?
2. Fighting broke out recently in Indonesia's capital. What's the name?
3. What does ECA stand for?
4. Who succeeded Jack Johnson as heavyweight champion of the world?
5. Give another name for Mozambique.
6. Where is the Parthenon?

(Answers on Column 5)

BOYS AND GIRLS MAGAZINE

Willy Toad Wanted to Fly

—And Sure Enough He Almost Did—

By MAX TRELL

CHIRPIE the Sparrow came to the window sill for his morning crumbs, and by and by, Knarf and Handi, the shadow-children with the turned-about names hurried up to watch him eat.

"Good morning," said Knarf and Handi.

"Morning," replied Chirpie Sparrow between gulps. "Did you hear what happened to Willy Toad last night?"

Knarf and Handi said they hadn't, but they'd like very much to hear. Chirpie Sparrow always had news about the various friends who lived on the other side of the garden wall. He was a great gossip.

Eaten Up Crumbs

"Well," said Chirpie, after he had eaten up most of the crumbs, and was resting for a moment so that he could pretend that all those that remained were dessert, "the story about Willy is that he wanted very badly to be able to fly like a bird."

"Toads can't fly like birds," said Knarf.

"Certainly not," said Chirpie. "But that didn't prevent Willy from wanting to. As you know, he lives under the Oak Tree and spends most of his time sitting on a toad-stool, catching flies. He was telling everyone who would listen to him: 'Since the beginning of Spring, I've swallowed about a thousand flies, wings and all. With all those flies inside of me, I don't see why I can't fly in the air as well as a bird.'"

"Willy's very silly," said Handi. "Just because he swallowed so many flies is no reason why he should be able to fly himself."

"Exactly right," said Chirpie.

Rupert and Margot—49



Saying goodbye to the friendly frog, Rupert squeezed through the hole under the door, and then helps Margot, taking care not to tear her dress on the rough wood. Sure enough, just outside they find a bridge, and hurry over it. Margot looks puzzled. "The frog called this a 'little bridge,'" she murmurs. "I expect he means little for the giant to use, isn't it?" "It's big enough for me, and it's jolly useful," laughs Rupert.

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.



Mr. Hoo lives in a tree trunk.

"And that's just what I told him. But he wouldn't listen to me. He said I didn't know anything. He said he was going to speak to a very wise old bird and find out why he couldn't fly after eating all those flies. So, late last night, he went to see Mr. Hoo."

"Who?" exclaimed Knarf and Handi in one voice.

"Mr. Hoo. He's an owl, and a wise old bird if ever there was one. Mr. Hoo lives in a hollow trunk down at the edge of the pond, and he always stays awake at night (which is a wise thing to do if you sleep all day). Now there's one thing I ought to tell you about Mr. Hoo: in case you don't know it already, He's very fond of toads."

"You mean, he likes to be friends with toads?" said Knarf.

"No, I mean he likes to eat them. Though, of course, he won't think he really meant to eat Willy."

"My goodness!" cried Knarf. "What did the owl do?"

A Laughing Chirp

Chirpie Sparrow uttered a laughing chirp. "Willy asked Mr. Hoo why he couldn't fly after eating so many flies, and Mr. Hoo looked down at him from the top of the hollow tree and said: 'You can fly, Willy!—Oh no, I can't!' said Willy. 'I'll show you that you can fly faster than I can,' said Mr. Hoo. And with that," said Chirpie Sparrow to Knarf and Handi, "Mr. Hoo dove straight down at Willy with his beak wide open!"

"Well," said Chirpie as he started pecking at the last of the bread-crumbs again, "you should have seen Willy go. Maybe it was exactly flying—but he was certainly more of the ground than on it. And he went much faster than Mr. Hoo. In fact, I don't think any bird could have flown as fast as Willy went at that moment. He didn't stop until he reached his own tree and was safely under his toad-stool. You see," Chirpie added, "it wasn't so much the flies that Willy ate that made him fly so fast; he just didn't want to be eaten up. Yes, that owl is a very wise old bird!"

RED RYDER



AN OLD ENEMY



BY FRED HARMAN



YOU AND BETH ARE GOING TO BE THE BAIT FOR A TRAP I'VE SET FOR RED RYDER!



OUTWARD MAILS

Unless otherwise stated, registered articles and parcel posts close 10 minutes earlier than the ordinary mail. If mails close before 10 a.m., registered and parcel posts close at 5 p.m. on the previous day. Mails are closed at Kowloon Central Post Office, half an hour earlier than the GPO closing times.

Exchange Rates

Business was done in the local unofficial exchange market this morning at the following rates:

Sterling pound note (per £1) 15.50
U.S. dollar (per \$1) 5.00
Gold bars (per 100) 0.50
P.T.C. notes (per 100) 21.50
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Delhi Conference Constitutes New Political Factor

New Delhi, Jan. 24.—Premier Jawaharlal Nehru of India told the final conference of Asian nations on Sunday he hopes "close co-operation has come to stay" among the 19 countries represented at the meeting.

The conference, called by Nehru to talk over the recent Dutch military moves in Indonesia, asked for the immediate end of Dutch military action in the area and swift steps towards self-rule. Its recommendations will go to the United Nations Security Council.

Nehru said the New Delhi meetings represented only the beginning of a task and the completion of the first stage. There had been some feeling, he said, the conference should discuss

other issues, in addition to Indonesia, but "it was vital we concentrate on this one problem."

Nehru said the conference action on Indonesia, because it came from such a large number of nations, must necessarily bear considerable weight.

"We have taken great care to say something definitely practical and feasible," he said, "and we hope the Security Council realises the strong feeling that lies behind it."

"We have not come here in hostility," he said, "not even to the Netherlands who have done injustice to Indonesia."

NEW POLITICAL FACTOR
Brig-Gen. Carlos P. Romulo, representing the Philippines, said the conference had produced a new political factor of great weight which is bound to become important in future world councils. He warned against any complacency since Indonesian settlement has not been reached.

Romulo said the nations represented at the conference comprise more than one half the world's population, half of the globe and one-third of the United Nations membership.

"That is a massive political fact," he said, "and it must count heavily in future consideration of any problem or formulation of any policy affecting peace, freedom and prosperity of mankind. Political co-operation among nations of Asia has passed from a dream to reality."

He said he thought the meetings had advanced the cause of Indonesian freedom. He urged the conference of nations to follow up their decisions and exercise vigilance against the "new dangers to the peace, independence or security of our part of the world."

CO-OPERATIVE ACTION
Romulo said he hoped the 19 nations would continue co-operative action, "helping Asia to achieve its rightful place in the new world which is striving to build through the United Nations."

D. Soemarto, a spokesman for the Indonesian Republicans, said his government is prepared to continue the struggle against Dutch imperialism unless a solution is reached following the conditions laid down by the Republicans previously. These included the freeing of Republican leaders, withdrawal of Dutch troops to their previous lines and creation of a free Indonesia.

Soemarto said the Republicans wanted the nations in attendance at the conference to take steps "either jointly or individually, and it seems to me that the nations are doing so."

RESOLUTION MEANINGLESS
New Delhi, Jan. 24.—Mr. D. Soemarto, the Indonesian Trade Minister, declared on Sunday that the American resolution on Indonesia at Lake Success "is now meaningless."

Referring to the Asian conference concluding on Sunday, Mr. Soemarto said: "While we are satisfied with the progress achieved we are deeply apprehensive about its ultimate effect on the Dutch attitude. Therefore, we still wish that the countries which attended the conference should take steps to force the Dutch to comply with the recommendations contained in the resolution submitted to the Security Council."

"We wish to reiterate the position taken by our emergency government in a letter to participating governments of the Asian conference," he said. "This said that the Indonesian Government and people are quite willing to accept a just solution following the lines laid down in the five principles stated by the Indonesian Government for a cease-fire. If such a solution cannot be reached in spite of international pressure upon the Dutch, the Indonesian peoples are quite prepared to continue the struggle against Dutch imperialism."—Associated Press.

To Be Married



Film actor Tyrone Power accompanies actress Linda Christian to a private showing of one of his films in Rome, Italy. They recently announced their intention to marry.

British Troops Back In Red Sea Oasis

Akaba, Transjordan, Jan. 23.—British troops, back in this Red Sea port after nearly three years' absence, are settling down in neat rows of tents among the palm trees of the Akaba Oasis, overlooked by steep rugged mountains.

PEACE IS BRITAIN'S OBJECTIVE

London, Jan. 23.—Mr. Hector McNeill, Minister of State and deputy to the Foreign Secretary, Mr. Ernest Bevin, said tonight that the objectives of British policy would continue to be the securing of peace treaties with defeated nations.

He told a meeting of his constituents at Greenock that Britain sought international normality, collective security with these anxious to redeem their signatures to the Charter of the United Nations, and some measure of disarmament, including atomic bomb control by international agreement.

Britain, he said, had reduced her armed forces from 8,000,000 to little over 800,000. Russia's armed forces probably totaled 4,000,000 yet it was the Soviets who accused the British of being warmongers.

Mr. McNeill said that at the United Nations recently he invited the Soviet representative, Mr. Andrei Vyshinsky, to deny that four million figures and invited him "to open his books in the same way as our books and accounts are open" to create international confidence.

"Mr. Vyshinsky, rather surprisingly, told me to mind my own business," Mr. McNeill said.

Mr. McNeill added that anyone who studied the documents on the struggle of the past two and a half years to control the atomic bomb and atomic energy for the benefit of mankind would conclude that "only one power stood in the way of making it possible."—Reuter.

Key Agents Of Smuggling Ring Seized

Frankfurt, Jan. 23.—The U.S. Air Force last night announced the arrest of seven Europeans, believed to be the key agents of an international smuggling ring.

Among them were a bank official and a woman physician, the announcement said.

Agents of the Air Force, which started an intensive drive to smash the ring on Saturday, have seized in the homes of the prisoners: precision instruments, ball bearings, watches, cameras, and small quantities of gold, silver and platinum as well as various currencies, the announcement said.

The prisoners were not identified by name nor were their nationalities given except for the statement that they are Europeans.

The agents said they believed they have the ring leaders but expected to arrest some smaller fry when the evidence has been sifted.

Announcing the start of the operation on Saturday, the Air Force said the ring included American soldiers, airman and military government employees.

Yesterday's announcement said the agents are "not particularly concerned" at this time with known U.S. military and civilian personnel involved in the smuggling as they will be "available" when the present phase of operations has been completed.—Associated Press.

GBS BLASTS TAXATION OF AUTHORS

London, Jan. 23.—The present laws of taxation on British authors were today attacked by George Bernard Shaw, now 92 years old, who said that they, together with composers, painters and playwrights, lived by "gambling" more desperately than any starter in a horse race.

He appealed to the Exchequer to restore and extend the old system of taxing an author's earnings on its average for three years.

In a letter published in the Times, Mr. Shaw added: "How we authors and inventors envy the gamblers on the turf and the Stock Exchange, the insurance companies, the pawnbrokers, the Casino exploiters who, without running a tithe of our risks, are not taxed on their winnings."

"Why should we suffer what is virtually a tax—on our capital, which other gamblers incur only in the form of estate duties against which they can afford to insure?"

"Why is property in our creations communised after less than two lifetimes, and that of simple distributors made perpetual?"

"Could not the Exchequer ease the matter a little either by restoring and extending the old average, or making the privileged gamblers pay their fair share?"—Reuter.

SCANDINAVIAN CONFERENCE DIFFICULTIES

Copenhagen, Jan. 24.—The difficulties obstructing a final agreement between the three Scandinavian nations in a common defence system on Sunday night forced the delegates to prolong their Copenhagen conference for another day.

The Danish Prime Minister, Mr. Hans Hedtoft, told reporters that the reason for this extension is that Denmark, Norway and Sweden have "differing views on the present international situation" but added that "it is the wish of all three nations to establish a Scandinavian defence alliance."

Mr. Hedtoft said that the conference would probably end Monday night and that he was still hoping for a positive outcome of the talks.

"We have encountered considerable difficulties during Sunday's sessions," he added without disclosing their exact nature.

The Foreign Ministers of the three countries will meet today in another effort to co-ordinate their differing views.

It was reliably reported earlier on Sunday that the main stumbling block of the conference was the disagreements as to how a request to the Atlantic Union members for arms and certain guarantees should be formulated.

During Saturday night and between Sunday's two sessions, the three Prime Ministers held several meetings to straighten out the matter.

The Government leaders also conferred privately with the Foreign Ministers and Ministers of Defence to reach a formulation of the request acceptable to all delegations.—Associated Press.

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"Could not the Exchequer ease the matter a little either by restoring and extending the old average, or making the privileged gamblers pay their fair share?"—Reuter.

Still No Oil From Iraq

Baghdad, Jan. 23.—A local radio report that the Iraqi Government had accepted a request from the British, United States and French Governments to resume oil pumping from the Iraqi oil wells of Kirkuk to Haifa, was denied by an official communique on Sunday.

The communique also stated that there was no truth in reports that Dr. Fadhil Jamali, Iraqi Minister in Cairo, had recently discussed the oil question with the Syrian Premier.

Dr. Jamali visited the Lebanon and Syria last week on a special mission related to the situation in Palestine.—Associated Press.

Escapes Try To Re-enter Camps

Nicosia, Jan. 23.—British troops today caught 30 escaped Jewish internees trying to re-enter Cyprus camp to qualify for embarkation to Palestine tomorrow under the British decision to release immigrants of military age, a usually reliable Jewish source said.

The source said several Jews were injured in a fight with men of the South Wales Border Regiment and one was taken to hospital.—Reuter.

Boer War Veteran Dies In Sleep

Wrexham, Wales, Jan. 23.—Lt. Colonel Sir Charles Lawton, 98, a veteran of the Boer War and winner of the Distinguished Service Order in World War One, died on Friday night in his sleep at his home, Erbstock Hall, it was announced on Sunday.—Associated Press.

POCKET CARTOON



NEW GERMAN POLITICAL PARTY

Brunswick, Jan. 23.—Eighty German politicians and newspapermen founded a new political union today, called it the "Third Force Movement" and said it was the only German party which had a future.

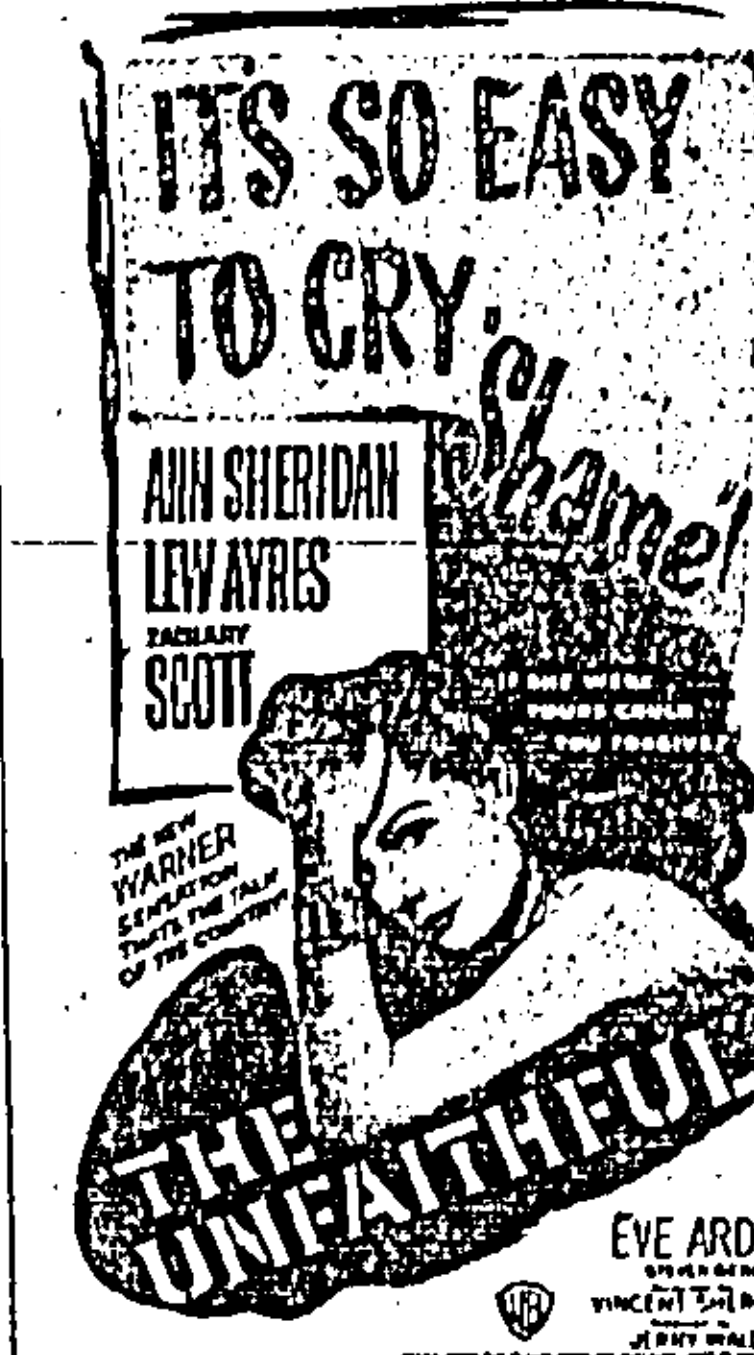
The "German Union", which held its inauguration Congress today, is a middle of the road rally of all existing parties except the Communists. A member of its executive board said German as well as "substantial foreign capital" was backing the new movement.

Party officials revealed that I.G. Farben works and the Bavarian motor works had invested large sums in the new party. In a heated debate preceding the Congress, political observers admitted that the new party would have chances.

The German Union will be a rallying movement for all Germans not yet belonging to a political party or dissenting from their present parties. Carlo Schmid, Western Germany's Social Democratic leader, and Joseph Mueller, chubby Bavarian Christian Democrat, are reported to have favoured the new party.—United Press.



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BIRTH

KARANJIA.—To Khorsheed, wife of Dr. N. P. Karanjia, on Sunday, January 23, 1949, at St. Paul's Hospital, a daughter.

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YOUTH KILLED BY SHARK

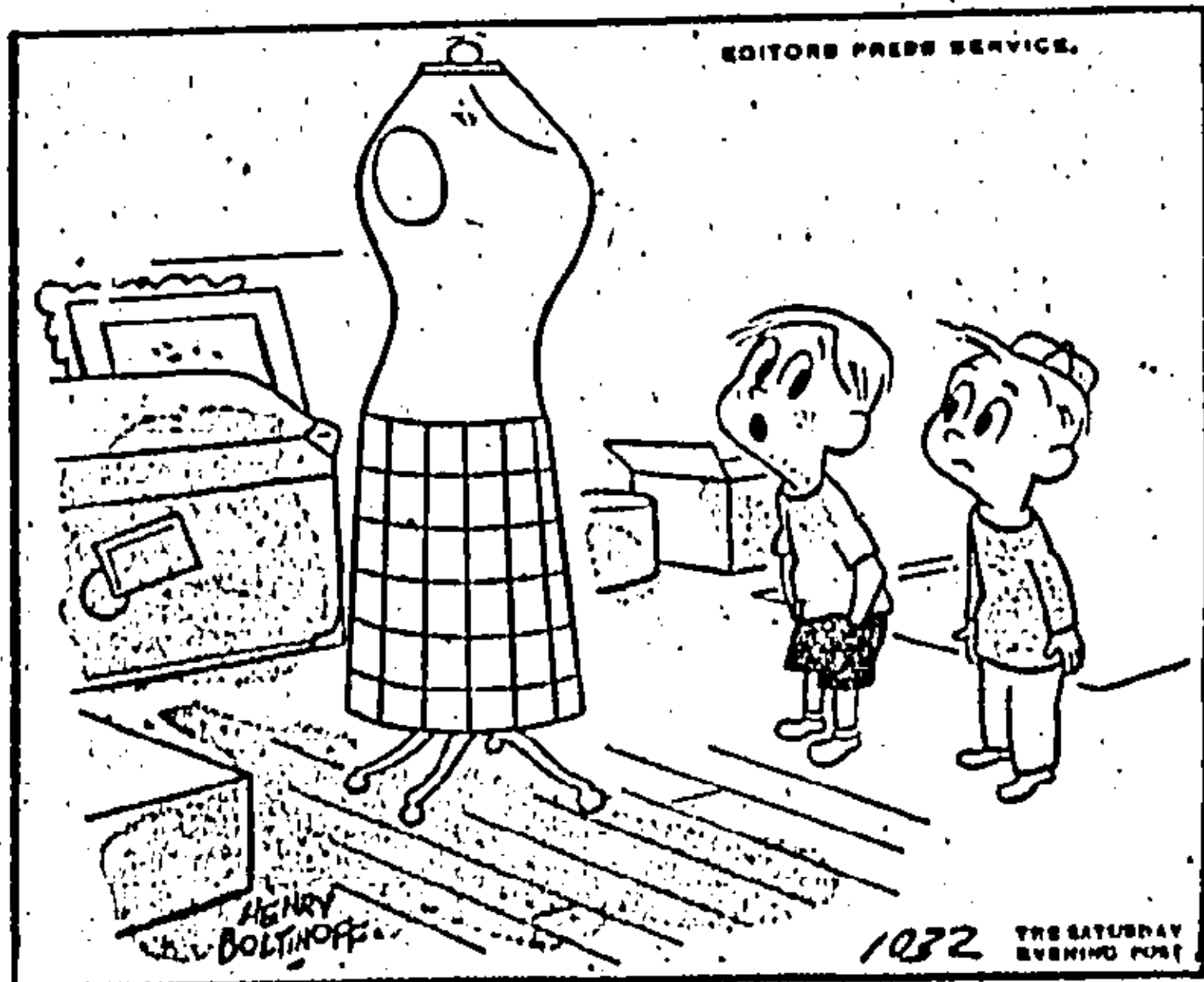
Sydney, Jan. 23.—A father and mother saw their only son, aged 23, killed by a shark today on the beach of Newcastle, New South Wales.

The young man, who was taking part in a surf-riding contest, was about 120 yards from the shore when his foot was caught in the rocks. Before help could reach him he was seized by the shark in its first attack and dragged under.—Reuter.

MONTY IN PARIS

Paris, Jan. 23.—Field Marshal Lord Montgomery, Chairman of the five-power Western Union Defence Committee, arrived unexpectedly in Paris tonight.

It is learned authoritatively that the Field Marshal intends to stay in France for three days, spending most of his time at his Western Union headquarters at Fontainebleau.—Reuter.



"Must be the skeleton of a prehistoric woman!"